

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-24 remain pending in the present application and are now under appeal, of which claims 1, 12 and 22 are independent claims. Claims 1-24 have been rejected over the prior art. Specifically, claims 1-9, 11-19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,154,332 (Williams et al.). Claims 1-24 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Williams et al. Claims 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Williams et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,530,919 (May).

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